

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**KENNEDY, OBERACKER, MARIETTA, FARWELL, SHANNON**  
**February 27, 2018**

Absent: Representatives Oberacker and Marietta

Also Present: Board Chair Bliss, Representative Lapin and Representative Koutnik (via telephone)

Representative Kennedy asked the members to discuss the results of their research. Representative Kennedy shared with the committee a list of what the needs are regarding administrative powers within County government including the following:

- Communication with department heads
- Execute and enforce laws
- Develop policies and procedures
- Making reports and recommendations for County operations and increase effectiveness within County operations
- Interact with other Boards and governments
- Appoint department heads
- Appoint to committees
- County audit
- Examine and approve contracts
- Budget officer, long range capital budgeting
- Manage the health plan
- Overseeing and maintaining a compliant and uniform purchasing system
- Collective negotiations
- Working with Personnel to handle labor disputes

The committee also discussed the following including but not limited to:

- The NYSAC study regarding County Government Organization
- The length of terms for an executive/manager/administrator
- The County Executive model and an elected comptroller
- Most of the counties with a County Executive are larger in size, except for Montgomery County, using Montgomery County as a case study as it is similar in size to Otsego County

Representative Kennedy invited Ellen Coccoma, County Attorney to the meeting. Ms. Coccoma stated it is important to decide first what the County would like to accomplish and then select the title that best fits what the County needs and to also decide if the centralized authority will be independent of the Board or not. Representative Shannon asked why a county would decide to develop a charter. Ms. Coccoma explained the role of a charter commission to explore the possibility of becoming chartered.

Representative Lapin suggested inviting Dr. Benjamin to help the County determine what it wants/needs and the importance of working out a timeline.

Representative Kennedy stated the goal is to make government more efficient and more effective and listed the next steps including:

- Attending the next department head meeting to present the idea of centralized authority
- Contacting Montgomery County to interface with them
- Contacting Dr. Benjamin to determine at what stage in the process would it be best for him to come
- In the future having a public hearing

Representative Lapin inquired about putting documents regarding organization of government in a centralized location online for the public to access. Representative Shannon discussed scheduling an additional Board meeting to discuss the matter of centralized authority.

The next committee meeting to discuss County government organization was scheduled for Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. at the County Office Building.

There being no further business to discuss, the committee adjourned until Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. at the County Office Building.